

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 1428

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AS, PINT

SUBJECT: PRESS CRITICAL OF SNEDDEN'S PERFORMANCE IN PARLIAMENT

REF: CANBERRA 1310

1. ARTICLES IN THE 5 MARCH 75 EDITIONS OF AUSTRALIA'S LEADING PAPERS CRITICIZED OPPOSITION LEADER SNEDDEN'S EFFORTS TO MAKE A CASE IN PARLIAMENT ON 4 MARCH AGAINST PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S ACTIONS ON 27 FEBRUARY WHICH LEAD TO THE RESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE. SNEDDEN'S EFFORTS READ WELL IN THE HANSARD, BUT THE PRESS NOTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES SAT IN SILENCE DURING MR. SNEDDEN'S ATTACK AND DID NOTHING TO ASSIST HIM IN DEFENDING HIMSELF AGAINST THE TAUNTS AND JEERS OF THE GOVERNMENT MEMBERS.

2. THE REPORTERS WHO COVER PARLIAMENT ARE NOT SYMPATHETIC TO SNEDDEN AND THEIR REPORTING REFLECTS THIS; HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION DID NOT SUPPORT SNEDDEN VOCALLY IS STILL ANOTHER INDICATION THAT HE IS NOT FIRMLY IN THE SADDLE AS LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

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